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FLOOR DEBATE

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found on page 6 where it says, "Natural resources districts shall also have the power and authority to levy a tax equal to the dollar amount by which their budgeted expenditures to administer and implement ground water management activities under the Nebraska Ground Water Management and Protection Act..." So are they able to assess 1 cent or 2 cents per \$100?

SENATOR SCHROCK: One cent per hundred.

SENATOR BOURNE: Okay. I'm trying to figure out what this language, though...this language on page 6 and 7 appears that they get 1 cent and another cent.

SENATOR SCHROCK: Senator Bourne, it's not an additional cent. It's 1 cent total.

SENATOR BOURNE: Okay. I'm going to read through the amendment, but when I first read it, it appeared that it was the initial penny plus another. And I don't...I know that's kind of a confusing area of the statute, so it could very well be that I was reading it incorrectly. Thank you, Senator Schrock. Listen, I indicated to Senator Bromm that I wouldn't prolong the debate on this because he wants to move on to other things on the agenda, and in the interest of collegiality, I understand that, because I think that this is a battle that can be fought another day, particularly on Select File. But, you know, I'm frustrated. We're constantly being asked to raise taxes to fund new programs, no matter how vital they are. I mean, this is very important, and I agree with Senator Schrock and the other proponents of the bill, but, you know, you can also make a similar argument for pretty much everything else that has been presented to us this year that requires an expenditure. I will tell you, Senator Schrock says that, well, nobody east of York will raise property taxes in the NRDs. Well, I find that hard to believe. While it does say that they have to use this for the ground water management, there's nothing in this, as I understand it, and maybe I don't understand it, I did vote no on LB 895 coming out of committee and that's the bill that has some of these provisions in there; but as I understand it, they can allocate, move their budgets around a little bit so that this can be done and they can use this for the ground water